



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
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JAN 26 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR BEVERLY A. COOK, EH-1
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND
HEALTH

FROM: MICHAEL S. HACSKAYLO
ADMINISTRATOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael S. Haskaylo", is written over the printed name.

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act Planning Summaries
(Your Memorandum, 12/19/03)

Per my responsibilities under DOE Order 451.1B 5.a.(7), I have attached Western Area Power Administration's Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary for calendar year 2003. An electronic copy of the Summary will be provided to the Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance.

If you have any questions regarding this Summary, please contact Shane Collins at (720) 962-7252.

Attachment

cc:
Lee S. Jessee, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, Washington, DC

Western Area Power Administration

Annual National Environmental Policy Act Planning Summary for CY2003

1.0 Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities

Western Area Power Administration (Western) continued to review activities for environmental impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 2003. Environmental planning activities fall under three categories: (1) Western projects, including maintenance and upgrades of Western's transmission lines and facilities, power marketing actions, and rate changes, (2) cooperating agency projects, where Western acts as a cooperating agency to review other Federal agency actions, and (3) work requested by public or private parties, such as power plant interconnections and use of Western's transmission towers for telecommunication systems.

As summarized in Table 1, Western completed 102 categorical exclusions (CX), five environmental assessments (EA), two environmental impact statements (EIS), and issued one record of decision (ROD) and four findings of no significant impact (FONSI). Western also had in progress an additional four EAs and five EISs. Four projects were placed on hold or suspended and one EA was cancelled.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF NEPA ACTIONS

NEPA Action	Western Projects	Cooperating Agency Projects	Public or Private Proponent Projects	Total
CXs completed	98		4	102
EAs completed	2		3	5
EAs in progress	3		1	4
EISs completed	1		1	2
EISs in progress		4	1	5
RODs issued			1	1
FONSIs issued	2		2	4
EIS/EAs suspended or on hold	3		1	4
EAs cancelled	1			1

1.1 Western Activities

Western conducts reviews for potential impact of its business activities on the environment. The majority of activities reviewed were categorically excluded from further NEPA documentation based on Subpart D of the Department of Energy NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021). The status of the EAs and EISs are listed here. A list of completed CXs is compiled in Attachment 1.

Environmental Assessments:

Creek Crossing for Captain Jack-Olinda 500-kV Transmission Line (California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP)) EA (DOE/EA-1353)

- EA Determination signed November 2000.
- The EA placed on hold pending receipt of new information on alternate routing options (May 2001).
- The project was cancelled in 2003.

Charlie Creek-Williston Fiber Optic Project, Overhead Ground Wire Installation (DOE/EA-1389) - \$25,000 to complete

- EA Determination signed March 20, 2001.
- Draft EA expected winter 2004.

Sacramento Valley Right-of-Way Maintenance (DOE/EA-1395) - \$45,000 to complete

- EA Determination signed January 18, 2001.
- EA is on hold pending receipt of the Biological Opinion from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wolf Point-Williston Transmission Line Project (DOE/EA-1401)

- EA Determination signed July 24, 2001.
- Draft EA released January 22, 2003.
- EA approved August 25, 2003.
- FONSI and Floodplain Statement of Findings approved August 25, 2003.

Hayre-Rainbow Transmission Project (DOE/EA-1424) - \$350,000 to complete

- EA Determination signed December 2001.
- Draft EA suspended until alternate routes are determined.

Headgate Rock-Blythe (formerly named Parker-Blythe No. 1), 161-kV Transmission Line Pole Replacement Project (DOE/EA-1427) - \$15,000 to complete

- EA Determination signed March 7, 2002.
- Draft EA released November 15, 2002.
- Notice of Floodplain Involvement issued May 12, 2003.
- EA completion pending.

Cheyenne-Miracle Mile 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project (DOE/EA-1456) - \$300,000 to complete

- EA Determination signed September 30, 2002.
- Notice of Floodplain/Wetland Involvement issued April 28, 2003.
- EA on hold pending review of a project technical approach.

Phase II Modifications and Construction of Transmission Lines for the Hoover Dam Bypass Project (DOE/EA-1478)

- EA Determination signed March 4, 2003.
- Draft EA released June 10, 2003.
- EA and FONSI approved October 27, 2003.

Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line Relocation (Quartzsite) (DOE/EA-1487) - \$75,000 to complete

- BLM and Town of Quartzsite are cooperating agencies.
- EA Determination approved November 20, 2003.
- Public scoping meeting held December 16, 2003, in Quartzsite, Arizona.
- EA draft expected summer 2004.

Environmental Impact Statements:

Sacramento Voltage Support (DOE/EIS-0323)

- EIS Determination approved August 8, 2000.
- Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS published August 8, 2000.
- Public scoping meetings held September 12-21, 2000, in Folsom, Lodi, and Marysville, California.
- Public workshops held March 22 and September 19, 2001, in Folsom, California.
- Draft EIS Notice of Availability published November 15, 2002.

- Public Hearings held December 9-12, 2002, in Lodi, Folsom, and Marysville, California.
- Final EIS Notice of Availability published September 19, 2003.
- Record of Decision published January 12, 2004.

1.2 Cooperating Agency Projects

Western routinely participates in other agency EAs and EISs that address proposals with the potential to affect hydropower generation or Western's transmission system. Western's participation in these projects helps to ensure that the effects on hydropower generation or Western's transmission system are adequately reviewed and presented in these documents. In 2003, Western participated in the following EISs as cooperating agencies:

Platte River Cooperative Agreement on Endangered Species Programmatic EIS (DOE/EIS-0295)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Bureau of Reclamation are preparing an EIS on the Platte River Cooperative Agreement on Endangered Species with the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Western's Rocky Mountain Region is a cooperating agency. The Draft Programmatic EIS is scheduled for public distribution in late January 2004.

Flaming Gorge Dam Operations EIS (DOE/EIS-0351)

Western's Colorado River Storage Project Management Center is a cooperating agency in the Bureau of Reclamation EIS on operating the Flaming Gorge Dam to achieve the flows recommended by the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Western was invited to be a cooperating agency, along with eight other Federal and state agencies. The project has been delayed by several months for data collection needs and hydrological modeling. The Draft EIS is scheduled for public review in March 2004.

Missouri River Master Manual EIS

Western's Upper Great Plains Region was named by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a cooperating agency for an EIS for operation of the dams on the Missouri River. The Revised Draft EIS was published in 2001. Western has participated in public meetings

held throughout the Missouri River Basin. The Final EIS is now scheduled to be published in March 2004. The USFWS re-issued its 2000 Biological Opinion with a 2003 Amendment on December 16, 2003.

Boulder City Bypass

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is preparing an EIS (FHWA-NV-EIS-00-02-D) for rerouting of U.S. Highway 95 around Boulder City, Nevada. Western's Desert Southwest Region was named by the FHWA as a cooperating agency. The project would require modifications to Western's system. The Draft EIS was released on March 15, 2002. The Final EIS is expected to be released in February 2004.

1.3 Public/Private Proponent Projects

Western has been approached by both public and private entities (applicants) for use of Western's transmission system, primarily for the interconnection of new power plants. Western worked on eight of these projects in 2003, completing three EAs and one EIS and issuing one ROD and two FONSI. All the projects listed here were funded by the applicants. The status of these projects is listed below.

Environmental Assessments:

East Altamont Energy Center (DOE/EA-1411)

- Joint review with the California Energy Commission (CEC).
- EA Determination signed September 20, 2001.
- Public scoping meeting held November 14, 2001, in Tracy, California.
- EA approved September 19, 2002.
- EA errata issued on March 7, 2003, due to changes in the project as a result of the CEC process.
- Draft FONSI issued March 7, 2003. Issuance of the Final FONSI is anticipated for February 2004.

Edgeley Wind Energy Project (DOE/EA-1465)

- EA Determination signed December 5, 2002.
- Draft EA released March 3, 2003.
- EA approval April 15, 2003.
- FONSI signed April 15, 2003.

Harry Allen-Mead 50-kV Transmission Line Project (DOE/EA-1470)

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead agency; Western is a cooperating agency.
- EA Determination signed January 22, 2002.
- Public scoping meeting held April 2, 2003.
- EA draft expected spring 2004.

Exira Station Project (DOE/EA-1474)

- EA Determination signed April 15, 2003.
- Draft EA released June 9, 2003.
- EA approved July 18, 2003.
- FONSI signed July 18, 2003.

Environmental Impact Statements:

Big Sandy Energy Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0315)

- EIS Determination signed March 3, 2000.
- Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS published April 18, 2000.
- Public scoping held May 3, 2000.
- Additional public information meeting held August 29, 2000.
- Draft EIS Notice of Availability published June 22, 2001.
- SA Determination signed October 31, 2001.
- Supplemental Draft EIS Determination signed December 28, 2001.
- Project is on hold pending further project review.

Ivanpah Energy Center EIS (230-kV Transmission Line Interconnection into Mead Substation) (DOE/EIS-0354)

- BLM is the lead agency; a cooperating agency agreement was signed October 11, 2002.
- Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS published February 15, 2002.
- EIS Determination signed February 15, 2002.
- Public scoping held March 5-7, 2002, in Good Springs, Las Vegas, and Sandy Valley, Nevada.
- Draft EIS Notice of Availability published November 22, 2002.

- Public Hearings held December 10-12, 2002, in Good Springs, Las Vegas, and Sandy Valley, Nevada.
- Final EIS Notice of Availability published May 16, 2003.
- Western adopted the BLM EIS on May 28, 2003.
- BLM ROD signed October 23, 2003.
- Western's ROD signed November 18, 2003, and published November 26, 2003.
- Mitigation Action Plan expected to be issued in spring 2004.

Wellton Mohawk Generating Facility Project (Power Plant) (DOE/EIS-0358)

- Western is the lead agency; BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation are cooperating agencies.
- EIS Determination signed April 2, 2003.
- Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS published May 19, 2003.
- Public scoping meetings held June 3-4, 2003, in Welton and Yuma, Arizona, respectively.
- Draft EIS expected in April, 2004.

2.0 Mitigation Action Plan Report

In 2003, Western issued Mitigation Action Plans for the Path 15 Transmission Line Upgrade Project in California, the Transmission Line Modifications for the Hoover Dam ByPass Project in Nevada, the Exira Station Project in Iowa, and the Wolf Point-Williston Transmission Line Rebuild Project in Montana and North Dakota.

All mitigation actions scheduled for implementation in 2003 for the Path 15 Upgrade Project have been implemented. A construction contract for the Path 15 Upgrade Project was awarded on May 27, 2003. Mitigation action monitoring will continue into 2004 and beyond as construction continues on Path 15.

Twenty-four (or 92 percent) out of 26 mitigation actions related to construction activities for the Hoover Dam ByPass project have been implemented. The construction contractor did not provide air quality and pollution discharge permits to Western's environmental office before the start of construction as stipulated in the Mitigation Action Plan. The construction contractor did secure the permits, as required by Western's Construction Standard on Environmental

Protection, Section 13, but no requirement was added to the construction contract to require that copies be provided to Western's environmental office. Future cross checking of the mitigation actions and construction contract specifications will help ensure that all mitigation actions are implemented.

Two mitigation measures were defined for the Exira Station Project Mitigation Action Plan. Each measure defined actions that needed to be implemented to avoid potentially significant impacts. All actions applicable to the construction of the Exira Project in 2003 have been implemented. Other mitigation actions will be monitored in 2004 as construction of the Exira Station continues.

Three mitigation measures were defined for the Wolf Point-Williston Transmission Line Rebuild to minimize impacts to water, biological, and cultural resources. A 10-mile segment of the transmission line was rebuilt in 2003. However, no sensitive water, biological, or cultural resources were present that required implementation of the mitigation actions defined for the project. The transmission line will be rebuilt by segment over several years. Prior to initiating construction activities for each segment, a review will be done to determine the mitigation actions that are applicable for each segment.

3.0 Future NEPA Actions

Table 2 summarizes Western's planned NEPA projects for 2004. In addition to the projects listed below, Western is currently reviewing the proposals from several private proponents for interconnection to its transmission system. These projects are not included in this list but may require environmental documentation in the near future if interconnections are determined feasible.

TABLE 2: NEPA PROJECTS PLANNED FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2004

PROJECT	EIS	EA	NEPA COSTS
Durango Substation and 115-kV Transmission Line Project, Durango, Colorado. (A support facility for the Bureau of Reclamation's Anamas-La Plata Project.)		✓	In preliminary design. Environmental costs are not estimated at this time.
Estes Park-Lyons 115-kV Transmission Line Reroute, Larimer County, Colorado. (A connected action to the Bureau of Reclamation's Windy Gap Firing Project, Western is cooperating agency.)	✓		Cooperating Agency with the Bureau of Reclamation.
Windy Gap-Granby Pumping Plant Transmission Line Rebuild Project, Granby, Colorado.		✓	\$165,000
Teneradora del Desierto Power Plant (Mexico) 500-kV Interconnection to North Gila Substation	✓		\$750,000 (applicant funded)
Redding Area Right-of-Way Management (California)		✓	\$500,000

4.0 Evaluation for Site-Wide EIS

Western owns, operates and maintains more than 17,000 miles of transmission lines, 52 manned facilities, and more than 260 electrical substations, and serves customers within a 1.3 million square mile area within 15 western states. Western's programs encompass power purchasing and wheeling, power marketing, and transmission system operation, maintenance, and construction. These programs are managed by four Regional Offices (Billings, Montana; Loveland, Colorado; Phoenix, Arizona; and Folsom, California) and the Colorado River Storage Project Management Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, and supported by Western's Corporate Services Office in Lakewood, Colorado. Because Western's programs are dispersed across such a wide geographical area, Western has determined that it is not practical to prepare one EIS addressing all of Western's programs and business practices.

ATTACHMENT 1

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS COMPLETED IN CALENDAR YEAR 2003

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS	DATE
<i>Colorado River Storage Project Management Center</i>	
<i>No CX's were prepared for this office</i>	
<i>Desert Southwest Region</i>	
North Havasu Substation Project (Additional Facilities Associated with Citizens Communication Company's Proposed Kingman-Havasut Transmission Line Project)	01/03
Emergency Replacement of Structure 10/6 Tucson-Apache 115-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line	01/03
Table Mesa Cell Point	01/03
Amargosa Substation Replacement of Electrical Equipment	04/03
Phoenix Substation Upgrade as Part of the South of Phoenix Project	04/03
Generator Building Replacement at the Hualapai Communication Site Hayden Peak in the Hualapai Mountains	05/03
Emergency Repair of 500-kV Conductor from Mead-Market Place	07/03
Siphon Drop Substation Installation of Communication and Metering Equipment	08/03
Harcuvar-Little Harquahala Hazard Saguaro Cacti Topping	08/03
Henderson-Mead #1 and #2 230-kV Transmission Line Southwest Gas Corporation Easement Outgrant	09/03
Glen Canyon Substation Vehicle Awning Cover Project	09/03
Upgrade of Water Transmission Line to Mead Sub to Improve Water Flow for the Fire Prevention System	09/03
Oracle-Tucson 115-kV Transmission Line Pole Relocation to Accommodate the Town of Oro Valley	10/03
Emergency Repair to 3-Pole Turning Structure, Saguaro-Tucson 115-kV Transmission Line	11/03
<i>Rocky Mountain Region</i>	
Kiowa Creek-Fort Morgan West Transmission Line Rebuild	01/03
Troublesome Substation Access Road Repairs	01/03
Beaver Creek to Brush Transmission Line Reconductoring	02/03
Curecanti-Rifle Repairs to Structure 58/1	03/03
Bald Mountain to Flatiron Substation Digital Microwave Installation	05/03
Loveland Area Projects Transmission and Ancillary Services Rate Adjustment	05/03
Loveland Area Projects Firm Electric Rate Increase	05/03
Wray Substation Equipment Replacements	06/03
Julesburg Substation Control Building Replacement	07/03
Whiterock Substation Construction	08/03
Medicine Bow Automated Meter Reading Installations	08/03
Brush Tap to Fort Morgan Tap Transmission Line Reconductoring	08/03
Alcova-Miracle Mile East and West Transmission Line Pole Replacements	08/03
Shiprock-Four Corners 345-kV Terminations	09/03
Curecanti-Lost Canyon and Hesperus-Montrose Hydro-Ax Tree Removal	10/03
Richards Lake-Cobb Lake Fiber Optics Installation	10/03
Archer-Cheyenne Fiber Optics Installation Underground Portion Addition	11/03
Flatiron-Valley Structure 5/5 Replacement	12/03
Town of Lyons Interconnection	12/03
Estes-Pole Hill Structure 5/7 Replacement	12/03
Archer-Cheyenne Fiber Optics Installation	12/03
Curecanti-Crystal; Curecanti-Rifle & Blue Mesa-Skito Structure and Road Maintenance	12/03

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS	DATE
<i>Upper Great Plains Region</i>	
Moorehead Substation Public Service Project	01/03
Fargo Substation Foundation Replacement	01/03
Fargo-Moorehead 230-kV Fiber Optic Installation	01/03
Orchard Communication Site Road Expansion	03/03
Forman Substation Stage 04 Installation of Concrete Foundation and Grounding Systems	03/03
Bismarck Substation Stage 08 Foundation Replacement and Expansion of Grounding System	03/03
Groton Substation Stage 11 Foundation Replacement	03/03
West Fargo Maintenance Facility and Fargo Substation Drainage Repair and Asphalt Surfacing	03/03
Sioux City Substation and Maintenance Buildings Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Replacement	04/03
Huron, Watertown and Sioux City Substations Asphalt Repair	04/03
Philip Substation Oil Containment Installation	05/03
Pick-Sloan Rate Increase for 2004 - Wholesale Power and Transmission	05/03
Oil Storage Tank Secondary Containment Installation in North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa	05/03
Otumwa Regeneration Station Construction	05/03
Phase 4 (North Dakota and Minnesota) Over Head Ground Wire Fiber Optic Installation	05/03
Wicksville-Wall Fiber Optic Installation	05/03
Philip Substation Foundations Replacement	05/03
Aurora Substation Stage Addition	06/03
Transmission Tower Structure Protection North and South Dakota	06/03
Beresford Substation Stage 08 Construction	07/03
Valley City Substation Stage 07 Construction	07/03
Pierre Service Center Roof Repairs	07/03
Pierre Service Center Water and Sewer Line Upgrades	07/03
Pierre Service Center Fire Alarm System Upgrades	07/03
Creston and Spencer Equipment and Structure Painting	07/03
Whatley and Frazer Pump Substations Oil Containment Installation	07/03
Huron-Watertown 230-kV Over Head Ground Wire Fiber Optic Installation	09/03
Tiber Substation Construction	09/03
Devils Lake Maintenance Building and Substation Remodel	09/03
Armour Substation Foundation Replacement	09/03
Rapid City Service Center Remodel	09/03
Custer Substation Oil Containment Installation	09/03
Snake Creek Substation Oil Containment Installation	09/03
Creston and Sioux City Substations Foundation Replacement	10/03
Fort Thompson and Mount Vernon Substations Building Foundation Replacement	10/03